

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 05784 302135Z  
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 PASO-00 /021 W  
-----116317 302138Z /75

O 302053Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 733

UNCLAS LIMA 5784

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CDES (HAND, KEITH)  
SUBJ: DEATH OF KEITH HAND

REF: LIMA 5734

PLEASE PASS TO:

MRS. KEITH HAND  
1120 WASHINGTON STREET  
MCKEEPORT, PA 15132  
TEL (412) 672-5293

1. IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET THAT I MUST INFORM YOU OF THE PRESUMED  
DEATH OF YOUR HUSBAND KEITH HAND.

2. JAMES PAINTER INFORMED THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AT LIMA, PERU ON  
JUNE 29 OF THE PRESUMED DEATH OF YOUR HUSBAND BY A FALL FROM  
NEAR THE SUMMIT OF HUASCARAN MOUNTAIN ON JUNE 26 OR 27. YOUR  
HUSBAND AND TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS CLIMBING TEAM WERE SEEN ON  
THE WEST SUMMIT OF THE MOUNTAIN ON MONDAY, JUNE 26. ON TUESDAY,  
JUNE 27, TWO OTHER CLIMBING TEAMS, ONE SWISS AND ONE PERUVIAN-  
AMERICAN, SAW THE SUMMIT AND SAW THE BODY OF A MAN WHICH WAS  
IDENTIFIED TO US BY MR. PAINTER AS THAT OF ALBERT KLEIN LYING  
BELOW THE SUMMIT. YOUR HUSBAND AND THE OTHER MEMBER OF THE  
PARTY HAVE NOT YET BEEN FOUND. IT IS PRESUMED BY MR. PAINTER THAT  
THEY ALSO HAVE FALLEN OR WERE BLOWN OFF THE SUMMIT DURING THE  
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NIGHT. THE CLIMBING TEAMS WHO SAW MR. KLEIN'S BODY REACHED  
BASE CAMP WHERE MR. PAINTER WAS STAYING WEDNESDAY AND MR. PAINTER  
REACHED THE TOWN OF HUARAZ WHERE HE COULD CALL THE EMBASSY ON  
THURSDAY. MR. PAINTER HAS RETURNED TO THE SITE TO HELP WITH  
SEARCH EFFORTS.  
MESSAGES CAN BE LEFT FOR HIM AT THE HOTEL BARCELONA IN HUARAZ,  
TEL. 2179.

THE PERUVIAN POLICE (GUARDIA CIVIL) ARE ASSEMBLING A RESCUE TEAM IN HUARAZ TO ASSIST IN SEARCH AND RECOVERY EFFORTS. AN EMBASSY OFFICER WILL ARRIVE IN HUARAZ JULY 1 TO ASSIST IN COORDINATION OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION. SEARCH AND RECOVERY EFFORTS HAVE UNFORTUNATELY NOT ALWAYS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN OTHER CLIMBING ACCIDENTS ON HUASCARAN DUE TO THE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TERRAIN. CONSULAR OFFICERS AND MR. PAINTER ESTIMATE THAT IT MAY BE AT LEAST JULY 3 BEFORE THE RESULTS OF THE JOINT EFFORTS ARE FULLY KNOWN. IF NECESSARY, YOU MAY CONTACT THE CONSULAR SECTION OR THE DUTY OFFICER OF THIS POST BY PHONING 28-6000 IN LIMA.

3. REGRETFULLY, I MUST DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE POSSIBLE NEED TO MAKE URGENT ARRANGEMENTS. LOCAL LAW REQUIRES LOCAL BURIAL OR THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE FOR SHIPMENT WITHIN 48 HOURS AFTER RELEASE OF THE REMAINS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR HUSBAND'S REMAINS RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES. IF SO, PREPARATION AND AIR SHIPMENT OF REMAINS TO THE NORTHERN UNITED STATES WOULD COST \$1800. CREMATION AND SHIPMENT OF REMAINS OF U.S. WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY \$500. IF LOCAL BURIAL IS DESOED, THE COST IS \$250. THE COST OF CREMATION AND LOCAL BURIAL IS \$380. ALL OF THESE COSTS ARE APPROXIMATE AND DO NOT INCLUDE COSTS INCURRED BY MR. PAINTER FOR RECOVERY OF THE BODY.

4. AFTER YOU HAVE MADE YOUR DECISION, PLEASE TAKE THE FOLLOWING UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTIONS: (A) TELEGRAPH INSTRUCTIONS PROMPTLY AND DIRECTLY TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, LIMA, PERU AND INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE DECEASED IN YOUR MESSAGE. STATE WHETHER REQUIRED FUNDS ARE BEING TELEGRAPHED AND BY WHAT MEANS. INCLUDE NAME AND ADDRESS OF U.S. FUNERAL HOME YOU SELECT IF SHIPMENT IS DESIRED.

(B) TELEGRAPH REQUIRED FUNDS SEPARATELY AND PROMPTLY THROUGH THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520, CLEARLY MARKED WITH NAME OF DECEASED.

(C) IF YOU ARE HAVING THE REMAINS SHIPPED TO THE U.S., YOU MAY WISH TO HAVE THE U.S. FUNERAL HOME YOU SELECT MAKE THESE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOU.

5. UPON RECEIPT OF THE REQUIRED FUNDS YOUR INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT AS PROMPTLY AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT. UPON COMPLETION OF THE NECESSARY FORMALITIES, A FOREIGN SERVICE REPORT OF DEATH PREPARED BY OUR OFFICE WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU.

6. YOU HAVE MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND DESIRE TO BE OF ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO YOU ON THIS UNFORTUNATE OCCASION.  
SHLAUDEMAM

NOTE BY OCT: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** CDES, (HAND, KEITH)  
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Sheryl P. Walter  
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